



Clark County AAH Groups Remove 3,800 Pounds of Litter From SR 14 in Two Days

It's a dirty job — and lucky for us, someone is doing it! In just one weekend, three Adopt-a-Highway (AAH) groups removed approximately 3,800 pounds of litter from six miles of State Route 14 in Clark County.

On Saturday, March 5, two AAH groups from the Georgia Pacific mill in Camas gathered over 250 bags of trash from four miles of SR 14 between the west side of Lady Island in Camas and 15th Street in Washougal. The group of 26 Georgia Pacific employees from the Consumer Products and Technical Operations departments picked up litter for approximately eight hours that day.

On Sunday, March 6, eight members of the Kiwanis Club of Cascade Park AAH group and the Mountain View High School Key Club removed 40 bags of litter from two miles of SR 14 between I-205 and the NE 164th Avenue exit. The group spent three hours clearing trash from their adopted section of highway.

“This is a huge amount of litter that these dedicated folks removed from our highway in a relatively short time frame — equivalent to the weight of a full size sedan,” said Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) Southwest Region Administrator Don Wagner. “This kind of effort not only helps make our state highways more attractive, but also helps save taxpayer money. We should all be very grateful that we have people like this in our community.”

The total cost to state taxpayers for the work done by the Georgia Pacific and Kiwanis Club groups last weekend was a mere \$182.68 disposal fee. The work done by AAH groups saves the state approximately \$250,000 a year in labor costs.

Adopt-a-Highway Groups	
Category	
Businesses	400
Clubs/Associations	337
Services/Fraternal Organizations	136
Military	64
Religious	107
Public Service	65
Schools	120
Corrections	7
Individuals/Families	126
Miscellaneous	17
Total	1,379

Celebrate Earth Day
Schedule a Litter Pick-up

Earth Day is a celebration to raise awareness of our environment and to promote conservation of our natural resources. Earth day is

Friday, April 22

In honor of this day, all of the Adopt-a-Highway crews are encouraged to schedule a litter pick-up during the week or over the weekend. Please visit <http://www.earthday.net> for more information about Earth Day events and activities.

Thank You, Washington State Adopt-a-Highway Crews

Without your hard work and dedication to keeping the highways of Washington litter-free, it's scary to think what our beautiful state might look like.

With the total number of crews reaching nearly 1,400, I am confident that the standard of quality and cleanliness the Adopt-a-Highway (AAH) team has set will continue to be met, if not exceeded.

In 2003 alone, the Department of Ecology reports that over seven million pounds of garbage were picked up on Washington State highways. The commitment by Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) AAH crews, the Department of Ecology

and other groups, to keeping this state attractive for all of its residents and visitors is essential.

Thank you for your time, effort, and devotion. Your pride in our state shows through your noble work to keep our roadsides looking clean. You are important role models and assets to your communities and our state as a whole.

Sincerely,



Doug MacDonald
Secretary of Transportation

Adopt-a-Highway Volunteers Help Restore Native Plants on Whidbey Island

On a Saturday morning in October 2004, WSDOT crews and several Whidbey Island AAH groups worked together to restore and replant a large, steep hillside above SR 525 with native shrubs and trees.

Approximately 30 volunteers, including members of AAH groups from Whidbey Island Naval Air Station's color guard, Island Transit, and Knights of Columbus – St. Hubert Council, demonstrated their support for this \$50,000 project by showing up to plant native trees and shrubs for nearly two hours.

Working together, WSDOT and volunteers planted more than 2,000 native shrubs and trees, including snowberry, nootka rose, Oregon grape, ocean spray, and Douglas and Grand Fir.

This planting project is part of WSDOT's larger goal to minimize herbicide use along state highways in Island County.

"Island County feels very passionate about reducing herbicides along highways," said WSDOT Roadside Maintenance Manager Ray Willard.

"Our goal is to work with the community to restore native plants near highways as one way to minimize herbicide use in Island County. With time, the plants that were planted last fall will develop into a naturally self-sustaining plant community, requiring minimal maintenance."



AAH volunteers and WSDOT crews donate their time and energy to restore native plant-life.

A WSDOT maintenance crew member “spot sprays” roadside weeds.

The answer could be you. The fact is WSDOT occasionally applies herbicides to control weeds and unwanted vegetation on the roadsides. There is a chance that when you go out to pick up litter, your adopted area could have recently been treated.

Herbicides are typically applied at low rates and only on unwanted weeds.

The herbicides used by WSDOT have very low potential risk for any exposure that may occur as a result of picking up

litter. You can reduce your risk even more by wearing gloves and appropriate safety attire as required in your Adopt-a-Highway agreement.

If you are planning a pick-up event and have questions or concerns about herbicides sprayed in your adopted area, please contact your local AAH coordinator for more information.

Paperwork, paperwork, paperwork . . .

Filling out forms is almost never fun, but sometimes it just has to be done. We realize the Adopt-a-Highway activity form is one more piece of paperwork to worry about, but it is the only way we have to keep track of how much our volunteers are doing. With nearly 1,400 groups

in the state volunteering to pick up litter, there are a lot of you to keep track of! We appreciate all the activity reports we get, but we're pretty sure not everyone sends a report in every time they go out and pick up litter.

We want to give everyone credit for the work they have done, but the only way that can happen is if we receive the activities form from each and every one of you. The hours recorded on the forms are also the basis for the insurance premiums we pay to the Department of Labor and Industries for coverage of our volunteer work force.

Please take the time to fill out and send the activity report to your regional coordinator after you have completed a litter pickup. Thank you for your cooperation.

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Adopt-a-Highway, Washington Style

Published by: Adopt-a-Highway Program
Maintenance and Operations Programs

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**Washington State
Department of Transportation**

You Can Never Be Too Safe

As you and your crews are out on the highways, picking up litter, there is a certain degree of risk involved. While the Adopt-a-Highway cause that you are supporting is very important, the safety of you and your fellow crew members is even more important. Please follow these guidelines each time you go out for a cleanup:

- ❑ Wear the orange safety vests and hard hats provided by WSDOT.



- ❑ Use the warning signs and vehicle-mounted strobe lights to alert motorists that you are on or near the highway.
- ❑ Go over the safety rules and review the video shown to first-time volunteers — even if you've been volunteering for many years.

In the 13 years that the program has been active, there has never been a traffic-related accident with any of the AAH crews and WSDOT, along with everyone else involved, wants to keep this safety record flawless.

For any safety questions or issues, or if your group needs any of the safety supplies provided by WSDOT, please contact your AAH coordinator.

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